

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

*A Daily Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy*

---

---

**February 10, 2011**

---

---

<b>U.S. Adapts Counterterrorism Efforts to Evolving Threats .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Federal Reserve Chairman Discusses Economic Recovery, Debt, Jobs.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Reports Say World Can Be Fossil Fuel Free by 2050 .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Statement on Religious Violence in Indonesia.....</b>	<b>3</b>

## U.S. Adapts Counterterrorism Efforts to Evolving Threats

By MacKenzie C. Babb  
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States is continually adapting its “counterterrorism techniques to effectively detect, deter and prevent terrorist acts,” Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says.

The secretary testified before the U.S. House of Representative’s Homeland Security Committee on February 9.

According to her prepared remarks, she said the terrorist threat facing the United States has evolved significantly in the last 10 years, and that violent extremism no longer is “defined or contained by international borders.”

“Today, we must address threats that are homegrown as well as those that originate abroad,” Napolitano said. Terrorist groups have placed a growing emphasis on recruiting Westerners and inspiring them to launch small-scale attacks.

“This threat of homegrown violent extremism fundamentally changes who is most often in the best position to spot terrorist activity, investigate and respond. More and more, state, local and tribal front-line law enforcement officers are most likely to notice the first signs of terrorist activity,” Napolitano said.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been working for two years to build an enhanced security architecture to address these emerging threats.

Napolitano said the first part of the department’s effort is in “working directly with law enforcement and community-based organizations to counter violent extremism at its source,” enhancing relationships between law enforcement and members of diverse communities “that broadly and strongly reject violent extremism.”

“Second, DHS is focused on getting resources and information out of Washington, D.C., and into the hands of state and local law enforcement in order to provide them with the tools they need to combat the threats their communities face,” Napolitano said.

The department’s initiatives have included the creation of a new curriculum to guide state and local law enforcement on countering violent extremism; efforts to enhance community-based partnerships through close work with a diverse collection of religious, ethnic and other local organizations; and joint work with international allies that have experience with homegrown

terrorism, such as Canada and the United Kingdom.

Napolitano highlighted four key pieces of the new homeland security architecture.

The first is the building of joint terrorism task forces, or “investigative teams that bring agencies together to investigate particular terrorism cases.” The task forces are led by the FBI.

The task forces will be enhanced by a network of 72 “state and major urban area fusion centers,” which are “analytical and information-sharing entities that bring agencies together to assess local implications of threat information in order to better understand the general threat picture,” she said.

Complementing those initiatives is the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative, which “creates a standard process for law enforcement to identify, document, vet and share reports of suspicious incidents or behaviors associated with specific threats of terrorism,” which can be used to identify broader trends.

The final part of the architecture is a public awareness campaign called “If You See Something, Say Something,” which encourages community-oriented policing to protect communities from crime. Napolitano stressed that “local law enforcement, community groups, citizens and the private sector play as much of a role in homeland security as the federal government.”

Her testimony said commercial aviation remains the top target of terrorists, and said DHS recently achieved a major milestone: 100 percent of passengers on flights within or bound for the United States are now being checked against government watch lists.

Napolitano also emphasized the importance of cybersecurity.

“At the same time that we work to strengthen the security of our critical physical infrastructure, we are also working to secure cyberspace — an effort that requires coordination and partnership among the multitude of different entities in both the government and private sector that share responsibility for important cyber infrastructure,” Napolitano said.

The secretary said DHS is working with the Defense Department and the National Security Agency to protect against threats to both civilian and military computer systems and networks.

“Working with our federal partners, law enforcement across the country, the private sector and the American public, we are making great progress in addressing

today's evolving terrorist threats," Napolitano concluded.

### **Federal Reserve Chairman Discusses Economic Recovery, Debt, Jobs**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — The U.S. economy continues to strengthen as consumer and business spending increase, but unemployment remains stubbornly high, says Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke.

"Until we see a sustained period of stronger job creation, we cannot consider the recovery to be truly established," Bernanke said at a February 9 hearing of the House of Representatives Budget Committee. The central bank president makes appearances before congressional committees twice a year to help Congress understand the state of the economy and the forces that affect it.

The hearing came about a week before President Obama and his administration submit the proposed fiscal year 2012 federal budget to Congress. Once the budget is submitted, numerous committees in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives begin hearings to determine if spending plans meet needs and how to pay for them. Knowing where the economy stands affects those decisions.

"The economic recovery that began in the middle of 2009 appears to have strengthened in the past few months, although the unemployment rate remains high," Bernanke said in prepared testimony. "The initial phase of the recovery, which occurred in the second half of 2009 and in early 2010, was in large part attributable to the stabilization of the financial system, the effects of expansionary monetary and fiscal policies, and the strong boost to production from businesses rebuilding their depleted inventories."

However, he said, the recovery slowed in spring 2010 and concerns about the durability of the recovery intensified. Two key things caused the slowdown: The impact of inventory building and fiscal stimulus policies diminished, and Europe's fiscal and banking problems caused a negative effect on global financial markets.

Real consumer spending rose at an annual rate of more than 4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2010, Bernanke said, and the gains in consumer spending over the period appear to be broadly based. Businesses for the most part boosted investment in new equipment as the demand for their products and services expanded.

"Construction remains weak, though, reflecting an overhang of vacant and foreclosed homes and continued poor fundamentals for most types of commercial real

estate," Bernanke added.

The U.S. gross domestic product — the broadest measure of the total value of goods and services produced — rose 3.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2010, its best showing since early 2009, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. For all of 2010, the U.S. economy grew at 2.9 percent, the best performance since 2005.

Unemployment in the United States fell from 9.8 percent in November 2010 to the current level of 9 percent, the fastest decline in unemployment in nearly 50 years, according to the U.S. Labor Department. The service and manufacturing sectors have begun growing again at pre-recession levels, the Labor Department said, accounting for a large part of the decline in unemployment.

This improvement, though welcome, is still insufficient to significantly erode a wide margin of slack that remains in the U.S. labor market, Bernanke told the congressional committee.

"Notable declines in the unemployment rate in December and January, together with improvement in indicators of job openings and firms' hiring plans, do provide some grounds for optimism on the employment front," Bernanke said.

But rising inflation was a concern of Congress. Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan said he is concerned that inflationary pressure from the Federal Reserve's monetary policies will outweigh any short-term economic benefits.

Bernanke testified that overall U.S. inflation remains low and longer-term inflation expectations have remained stable. He said prices for all the goods and services consumed by households rose 1.2 percent for all of 2010, down from 2.4 percent over the previous 12 months.

But he said it will take several more years for the U.S. unemployment rate to fall to within a normal range.

Finally, Bernanke told the congressional committee that raising the \$14.3 trillion U.S. debt ceiling is essential to keep the United States from defaulting on its loans and creating a severe impact on the global economy.

"We do not want to default on our debts. It would be very destructive," Bernanke said.

He also said that for the U.S. economy to strengthen, Congress and the administration must undertake reforms of the government's tax policies and spending priorities that will serve to reduce the deficit and enhance long-term growth.

## Reports Say World Can Be Fossil Fuel Free by 2050

By Karin Rives  
Staff Writer

Washington — The world has the technical know-how and financial capability to run entirely on renewable energy by the middle of this century, two California researchers say.

Their study says that a large-scale transformation of the world's energy systems to wind, solar, water, geothermal and other renewable sources would not cost substantially more than continued reliance on conventional power generation.

The research comes as world leaders seek to tackle climate change while also providing electricity to the 1.4 billion people who still lack access to energy.

President Obama said in his 2011 State of the Union address to Congress that he wants the United States to get 80 percent of its energy from clean sources by 2035, a goal that can be achieved only if more Americans get their power from renewable and nonfossil sources.

Mark Jacobson, an atmospheric scientist and professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University, and Mark Delucchi, a research scientist at the Institute for Transportation Studies at the University of California-Davis, published their article in a recent issue of the journal *Energy Policy*.

It has received significant attention in trade and mainstream media as it provides a rare road map for how the world can move away from coal and oil.

"We wanted to show that there are no large technical or even economic barriers to powering all energy sectors globally on wind, water or solar power because that point is not widely appreciated," Delucchi told *America.gov*. "The biggest obstacle is politics."

Another recent study, this one published by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Dutch research group Ecofys, also concluded that a fossil fuel-free world is within reach.

The groups' 2011 *Energy Report* estimates that it will cost \$4.8 trillion annually, or about 2 percent of the world's gross domestic product, to switch to 95 percent renewables by 2050. After 2040, however, the world would start to see net savings through diminished energy costs and greater efficiencies — with annual savings approaching \$5 trillion by midcentury, the WWF/Ecofys report says.

"While investments would pay for themselves over time,

we need to mobilize significant capital upfront," said Jim Leape, WWF's director general. "It won't necessarily be an easy task. We have to drive efficiency very deep into the economy, and ... cut our energy use in half, so [by 2050] we use only what we used in year 2000."

### FOSSIL FUELS HAVE HIDDEN COSTS

Included in the two studies are factors such as the costs of climate change — an expense that would be significantly reduced with a switch to renewable energy. In the United States, for example, air pollution from coal plants and cars cost the nation \$120 billion in health care costs in 2005, according to the National Research Council, which gives scientific guidance to U.S. policymakers.

"Our plan would eliminate all air pollution and 2.5 million to 3 million premature deaths per year, as well as facilities and exhaust pipes responsible for such pollution," said Jacobson, the Stanford researcher.

The California and Dutch researchers also factored in future savings, such as a significant reduction in overall energy consumption and the elimination of fossil-fuel subsidies. According to the International Energy Agency, global government subsidies for the oil, gas and coal industry amount to more than \$500 billion annually.

Prospects for renewable energy have improved significantly in recent years, the researchers said.

"Technology keeps improving and costs keep coming down," Delucchi said. "For example, there are several interesting wind-power designs and technologies that promise some technical and economic benefits. [And] given recent developments in lithium-ion batteries, I think we will see economical battery-driven electric vehicles sooner than most people expect."

### Statement on Religious Violence in Indonesia

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
February 9, 2011

STATEMENT BY PHILIP J. CROWLEY,  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS

#### Religious Violence in Indonesia

The United States is deeply concerned about the mob violence in Indonesia directed at members of the Ahmadiyah community that resulted in the deaths of three people and the wounding of several others this past weekend. We also note with concern the recent church burnings in Central Java. We join the vast majority of

Indonesians in deploring these acts of violence.

President Yudhoyono's statement, that the Government of Indonesia will take firm action against the perpetrators of the violence, underscores Indonesia's commitment to rule of law and to the protection of the rights of all communities.

(Preceding items distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://america.gov>)